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Worldwide Report

TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

No. 110

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WORLDWIDE REPORT

TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

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CONTENTS PAGE

WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

Telecommunications in French-Speaking Africa Reported (AFRICA, Jan 80).. 1

Briefs
- Egypt Joins European Union 12
- Iraqi TV Cooperation With CSSR 12
- Ethiopian-Romanian Radio Accord 12
- Hanoi-USSR Sign Radio-TV Agreement 12
- Japanese Loan to Kenya 13
- Taiwan, Peru News Exchange 13
- Mozambique, Hungary Radio-TV, News Agreement 13
- OPEC News Service 13
- Jordan, DPRK Information Agreement 14
- Cuban, USSR Radio-TV Agreement 14
- USSR Protocols With GDR, MPR, Poland 14

ASIA

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

Briefs
- Japan Link With Bhutan 15
- SEA Intelsat Session Meets 15

INDIA

Briefs
- Station for Satellite Communications 16
- Earth Observation Satellite 16

CONTENTS (Continued) Page

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Briefs
Jiangsu's Highest Television Tower 17

PHILIPPINES

Briefs
More Radio-TV Stations 18

EAST EUROPE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Czechoslovak Press on Soviet Aid to CSSR Uranium Industry
(Editorial Report).. 19

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Briefs
New Telephone Exchange 21

LATIN AMERICA

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Briefs
UNESCO-Donated Radio Station 22

ARGENTINA

Briefs
Television Relay Station 23

CUBA

Agreement Signed With USSR Radio-TV Organizations
(Havana Domestic Service, 21 Feb 80).................... 24

NICARAGUA

Newsmen Issue Communique on Media Freedom
(Radio Sandino, 1 Feb 80).............................. 25

CONTENTS (Continued) Page

NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

YAR Agrees to Unify Telecommunications With PDRY (INA, 31 Jan 80)................................. 26

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

KENYA

Briefs

Information Services Improved 27

MADAGASCAR

Telecommunications Cooperation With French Reported (MADAGASCAR-MATIN, 9 Jan 80)........................... 28

USSR

Briefs

Moscow's Satellite Telecommunications 29

Satellite Navigation for Ships 29

Satellite Navigation System 30

WEST EUROPE

DENMARK

Post, Telegraph Agency: Merge Phone Companies by 1982 (Sv. Aa. Jensen; BERLINGSKE TIDENDE, 21 Jan 80)........ 31

Phone Company Official Discusses Innovations, Services (Sv. Aa. Jensen; BERLINGSKE TIDENDE, 21 Jan 80)........ 33

FINLAND

Agencies' Dispute Impedes New Data Transfer Network (HELSINGIN SANOMAT, 5 Jan 80).......................... 36

Transportation Ministry Report Urges More Highway Phones (HELSINGIN SANOMAT, 9 Jan 80).......................... 39

CONTENTS (Continued) Page

Briefs
First Mobile Phone Exchange 41

FRANCE

CNET To Be Pilot Telecommunications Research Center
(Jean-Francois Augereau; LE MONDE, 16 Jan 80)....... 42

TURKEY

Briefs
TV Relay Station 45

TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICA REPORTED

Dakar AFRICA in French Jan 80 pp 65, 67, 69-71

[Text] The money spent on telecommunications throughout the world is estimated at over $40 billion a year, and it is increasing at the rate of 12 percent a year. However, this steady growth has not yet reached Africa, where the limited financial resources, the lack of labor, and often the absence of planning have caused a general backwardness in all areas.

In early 1977--the latest figures available--the telephone density of the African continent did not exceed 0.44 per capita, compared with 4.5 in South America and 5.2 in Africa. The number of radio receivers did not come to 7 percent of the population, while the world average was over 30 percent. As for television, this was available only in major cities.

With a population today estimated at nearly 450 million inhabitants, which should reach 500 million by the year 2000, Africa still has a great effort to make in this area, not only for basic telephone equipment, but also to have access to highly sophisticated industries in the field of telecommunications, such as electronics.

The PANAFTEL [African Telecommunications] Network

The African telecommunications agencies, aware of the growing demand, have, since their countries became independent, sought to develop telecommunications infrastructures and to reduce their countries' dependence on Europe, whose systems they had to use to communicate with the outside world. Faced with the need for rigorous planning on a continental scale and the huge financial expenses required, the first United Nations Economic Commission on Africa, meeting in 1963 in Addis Ababa, signed an agreement with the ITU [International Telecommunications Union], which included, as part of the activities of the UNDP [United Nations Development Program], a pre-investment studies project for the African Telecommunications Network.

This project, known as PANAFTEL, in which the highest levels of government on the African continent are involved, is designed to provide Africa with a telecommunications network that will give it independence in the field of communications.

The implementation of this network has just been evaluated, and it was found that despite the delays incurred, the progress made gives signs of encouragement for the future. It was observed that at the end of 1978, 16 telephone exchanges and 31 telex centers were then in service in Africa. These central offices are linked by approximately 30,000 kilometers of high quality transmission cables to radio relays (both optical and tropospheric) and by a coaxial cable system.

In addition, a 2,600-km underwater telephone cable, inaugurated in April 1977, links Casablanca (Morocco) to Dakar (Senegal)--the Dakar-Abidjan cable was opened in April 1978, and the Abidjan-Lagos cable is to begin service in May or June 1980--and to Abidjan (Ivory Coast). There are plans to extend it to Lagos (Nigeria) with, further in the future, branch lines to the major cities of West Africa.

In June 1977, the five members of the Council of Entente (Benin, Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Niger, and Togo), the CEAO [West African Economic Community], and the ADB [African Development Bank] signed an agreement stipulating that 30 million CFA [African Financial Community monetary unit] francs will be spent on a study of establishing a telecommunications network to link directly Benin, Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Togo.

Moreover, in January 1978, the nations of the Chad Basin Commission (Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria) placed an order for 590 million CFA francs with the U.S. firm, General Telephone and Electronics Corporation, for the construction of a radio relay system 230 km in length which will link Cameroon, Chad, and Nigeria; the system was delivered this year [1979].

Then, to complete the ground and submarine cable network, the approximately 30 ground stations of the Intelsat system support international and intercontinental service for the African nations. Four countries use Intelsat services for their national system.

At the March 1979 conference in Abidjan of the World Planning Commission for Africa, the African nations decided to build an integrated network, PANAFTEL, based on the existence of submarine cables, ground stations, and radio relay systems.

And yet, although the progress achieved by the Panafrican Telecommunications Network is encouraging, it has not yet provided Africa with a reliable and complete communications network, because of the serious problems encountered with transmission lines and with the telephone central exchanges. These problems have affected the implementation of the entire network.

Africa, an Inexhaustible Market

In the past several years great progress has been made in the field of advanced equipment, and the equipment used today has nothing in common with what was used 20 years ago. Sophisticated communications systems have appeared in the African countries, where kerosene or diesel turbogenerators have replaced the electric generators, which demanded frequent and expensive maintenance. Turbogenerators operating on solar power require little maintenance, and their use is now planned. They would give the telephone system a reliability 16 times greater.

Organized under the auspices of the ITU, "Telecom 79," the Quadrennial World Telecommunications Fair, was held in Geneva in September. It drew over 500 exhibitors from about 40 different countries, who displayed their most advanced telecommunications products and technologies to a public of experts. This immense electronics market enabled the developing countries to present their programs for extending their national communications systems as well as the multinational projects of the European Space Agency or of the PANAFTEL network.

This exhibit coincided with the opening of CAMR 79, the World Administrative Conference on Radiocommunications, the most important conference held on telecommunications in 20 years. Until December 1979, 1,500 delegates from 154 countries which are members of the ITU tried to standardize and modernize the international regulations applicable to broadcasting services, to discuss the allocation and use of frequencies, and the launch and usage of earth-synchronous satellites.

The decisions reached have the force of international treaties and will certainly have a decisive influence on the development of communications of all sorts up to the year 2000, whether in the field of space communications, mobile maritime service, mobile aviation service, sound and television broadcasting, and direct satellite broadcasting.

The decisions made at the end of the lengthy negotiations were compromises that seem to have satisfied the developing countries, which were able to get the developed countries to consider their rights to a more balanced world information order.

First of all, the participants decided to extend "band II" of FM transmissions to 108 megahertz, thus leaving space for many additional transmitters, and significantly facilitating the use of local radios.

The second decision concerns the convening of a conference which may possibly generalize the use of single sideband modulation, eventually bringing about the replacement of radio receivers. This BLU [Single Sideband, or SSB], a newcomer in the decametric wave bands (long or medium waves), does offer some considerable advantages, since it permits a larger number of stations to operate on the same wavelength. But the complete renovation of the stock of receivers that it would require is for the time being too great a burden for the developing nations. They requested that they be reserved access to this single sideband system, even though they can not yet make use of it.

In the field of decametric waves (short radio waves), which are best for transmission to a distant country and which are also suitable for telephone communications, the African countries opposed their exclusive reservation for broadcasting, excluding telephone communications, which the developed countries would like to reserve for much higher frequencies. These high frequencies require too advanced a technology and costs that are too high for the developing nations.

In order to protect and develop national broadcasting, the African countries which only have decametric bands to handle all of their broadcasting (causing great overcrowding) obtained an enlargement of the bands allocated for short wave radio and for communications with mobile stations, thus decreasing interference. No decision was made, however, concerning access to the "orbital parking spaces" for future radiocommunications and direct broadcasting satellites. A detailed analysis of this problem will be made by a specialized conference to be held in a few years. We should mention that earth-synchronous satellites, placed in an equatorial orbit and traveling at the same speed as the earth's rotation, are the only ones which can be used for telecommunications. Several are now in operation above the Atlantic and Indian Oceans; these belong to the Intelsat international network. They are all placed in "parking spaces' located at an altitude of 37,000 km, on an axis selected by the ITU in Geneva in 1977.

International Cooperation

The development of domestic telecommunications and access to the international network require that the African officials work together on a regular basis in order to standardize the circuit operating regulations, to ensure technical compatibility of the links, and to set standard fee structures.

In 1973, the African heads of state and government decided to establish a Coordination Committee for PANAFTEL, consisting of representatives from the OAU, the ECA [United Nations Economic Commission for Africa], the ADB, and the ITU. In addition to matters of job training, pre-investment studies, the implementation of the PANAFTEL Network and planning of national telecommunications networks, the ITU assists with rural or satellite telecommunications projects, with advisory services, with the establishment of maritime radiocommunications, and with broadcast control.

Because of the long shared past which links French-speaking Africa to metropolitan France, France takes an active part in this international cooperation, primarily acting through the CNET [National Center for Telecommunications Studies], which employs most of the French experts who are involved in the work of the specialized agencies of the ITU, such as the advisory committees working on international standards for the operation of telecommunications. France is thus involved in training foreign technicians in schools of the ACTIM [Agency for Industrial and Economic Cooperation] or of the BEPTOM [Overseas Postal and Telecommunications Studies Office]. Then there are engineering companies, such as the SOFRECOM [French Telecommunications Equipment Research and Development Company] and the French Radio Cables Company which are involved in a wide array of studies in Africa.

On a Franco-African bilateral level, the French aid is provided under the auspices of the ministry of cooperation (through the FAC [Aid and Cooperation Fund] which finances missions by experts and student grants), the ministry of finance (through the office of foreign relations for industrial projects), and the ministry of foreign affairs. These three ministries work together with the suppliers whose medium or long-term credits are guaranteed by the COFACE [French Insurance Company for Foreign Trade].

Situation in the African Nations

Senegal

Senegal, the crossroads of the South Atlantic Ocean, has since 1970 undertaken a vigorous program to modernize its facilities, which will be discussed in the article devoted to communications in Senegal.

Telesenegal has conducted the following projects:

a. Modernization of the "decametric wave links" between Dakar and the West African capitals.

b. Completion of the Casablanca-Dakar submarine cable, named Antinea, and the Dakar-Abidjan cable, named Fraternite; the system will be extended to Lagos in May or June 1980.

c. Automation of the telephone service with Europe, North America, and the Ivory Coast.

d. Establishment of the International Transit Center which enables telex customers to reach almost all the countries of the world automatically and makes it possible for them to obtain an instantaneous and detailed bill for international telex communications. Senegal has thus almost completed its integration into the world telecommunications network.

Ivory Coast

On 1 January 1977, the Ivory Coast had 24,000 telephone customers and a little over 55,000 telephone sets operating; of these, 89 percent had automatic service. In 1980, estimates call for 65,000 customers, covering 73.8 percent of needs. Over 100 areas are served by telephone, but the largest proportion is still in Abidjan (72.4 percent).

International telephone traffic was greatly stimulated by the establishment of a ground station for satellite communications (Intelsat) in Akakro, near Abidjan, with a 132-circuit carrier and by the CT2 [2nd class International Transit Center].

In 1975, the automation of communications with France and Lebanon greatly helped to increase traffic. In 1976, the automatic link was extended to traffic with the United States, and in 1977, to traffic with other European countries.

The INTELCI [International Telecommunications of the Ivory Coast] and Telesenegal have promoted the Dakar-Abidjan submarine cable. In May or June 1980 the Abidjan-Lagos submarine cable, developed by INTELCI and NET [Nigeria External Telecommunications], will be in service.

On 2 October 1979, a contract for the completion of the communications system which will follow the track of the railway linking Abidjan to Ouagadougou (Upper Volta) was awarded by the Abidjan-Niger administration to the CIT-Alcatel firm. This system, 1,150 km long, will cost 50 million French francs and will serve the 54 stations along the railroad. In addition to telephone and data transmission, and telegraph switching with a teleprinter, the network will have a telephone system for regulating trains.

Then a radio-television project to cover the entire country is under study. The studies, done by the TDF [French Broadcasting] company, will take nearly 2 years. The project itself is estimated at 65 billion CFA francs.

Cameroon

The development of communications in the United Republic of Cameroon has been programmed in 5-year plans.

At the end of the second plan, the country had a basic infrastructure (2,000 km of radio relay systems with 600 telephone channels), a modern telephone system with over 10,000 customers, and 17 automatic telephone exchanges. These developments affected primarily the Yaounde-Douala-Buea and Yaounde-Garoua-Maroua radio relay systems.

The third plan (1971-1976) got behind in its execution, which is now being completed. During this plan, however, three new radio relay systems were completed (Douala-Foumban-Yaounde

Bafia; Yaounde-Ebolowa). The telephone system was extended to about 20,000 customers, and 17 new automatic telephone exchanges were completed, along with the corresponding urban systems.

These two plans thus provided coverage of the entire territory and the fourth plan (1976-1981) concentrates on consolidating what has already been done, and includes:

a. The extension of the automatic exchanges of Yaounde (5,200 to 10,000 lines), of Douala (6,000 to 10,000), and of Garoua (500 to 1,200).

b. The extension of the urban systems of these three cities.

c. The extension of the Yaounde-Douala radio relay system (an additional 600 channels).

d. The linking of the Yaounde-Bafia-Bafoussam-Douala radio relay system. These various operations have until present been conducted by U.S. firms (the northern relay), by English firms (English-speaking Cameroon), and by French firms (center and west).

We should mention here that the operation of international telecommunications is handled by the INTELCAM [International Telecommunications Company of Cameroon] firm (a joint firm in which the French Radio Cables Company is involved). This firm operates the ground station which began service in December 1973. The company opened the International Transit Center in February 1979, which automated international communications with some European countries.

Benin

The development of the Beninois communications network is considered in a long-term plan which should, by 1995, provide 205 systems with 42,650 telephone customers, with 23,000 of them in Cotonou. This plan calls for the gradual implementation of automated groups and long-distance automation, the development of manual circuits on the remaining long-distance circuits of major cities, and the automation of local centers.

The capacity of the long-distance circuits, by the end of the development plan, should be 90 percent, while it was only 34 percent in 1970. At the same period, 97 percent of the customers' lines should be automatic.

Until now, eight automatic centers (made by Ericsson) have been built in Cotonou (3,200 lines), Porto-Novo (800 lines), Parakou (400 lines), Bohicon (400 lines), Abomey (200 lines), Lokossa (200 lines), and Ouidah (200 lines). New facilities are planned for the group centers at Cotonou, Porto-Novo, Lokossa, and Djougou.

International communications are handled by the PTT [Postal and Telecommunications] office and by the French Radio Cables Company (a concession). International communications are handled primarily by a Cotonou-Porto Novo-Ikorodou-Lagos radio relay system (telephone and telex). The segment of the PANAFTEL Network from Niamey to Bohicon by line of sight radio relay was completed at the same time as the establishment of the International Center of Cotonou.

The Beninois authorities recently requested aid from the FAC for two projects:

a. A study of and possible participation in financing of a ground station.

b. Participation in the financing of the Parakou-Natitingou radio relay system (to Upper Volta).

Mali

The telecommunications stock in Mali includes: 4,000 main telephone lines (total capacity of Bamako); 35,000 telephone sets and 200 telex lines (90 customers); a ground station in Bamako (service started in December 1976) with two antennas, one for the Intelsat Atlantic satellite and the other for the Indian Ocean satellite; a radio relay link between Bamako, Segou, Kati, Koulikoro, with exchanges in Bamako (4,000 lines), Segou (400 lines), Kati (100 lines), and Koulikoro; a Segou-Mopti link with exchanges in San, Sevare, Bandiagara, Djenne (100 lines), and with exchanges planned for Kayes, Kita, and Bougouni. These cities are on the PANAFTEL line, which is to link Senegal, Mali, Upper Volta, and Cameroon. The Bamako-Sikasso-Bougouni link in Mali was constructed in 1979.

Based on the present plans for developing radio relay systems to Mopti and Sikasso, the plan to replace the radio equipment serving the Mopti, Timbuktu, Gao, Bamako, and Sikasso links will be limited to the links between Bamako, Gao, and Timbuktu.

Niger

The vast expanse of Niger's territory has forced the PTT office to give priority to the urban telephone system with the construction of automatic exchanges in Niamey (10,000 lines) and in nine other cities. Niger recently signed two new contracts for the expansion and creation of new central exchanges, to be done by the Thomson-Ericsson company. The work includes the modernization of the Niamey 1 exchange, whose signalling code will be adapted to international standards, the expansion of the Niamey 2 and Maradi exchanges, which will have 2,400 additional lines, and the creation of three new exchanges in Tahoua, Dosso, and Zinder.

Upper Volta

Upper Volta has put in operation its new telecommunications system supplied by CIT [Industrial Telecommunications Company]-Alcatel. The official opening took place in May 1979. The system is linked to the world by the International Transit Center in Ouagadougou with a capacity of 300 circuits, which can be expanded to 4,000. The Center has 12 positions for national and international operators, and two monitoring positions. It is linked to six urban exchanges of the Jamus type which serve the major cities in the country. This is an important step in bringing Upper Volta out of isolation. It complements the two urban systems of Ouagadougou (2,500 lines) and Bobodioulasso (with a 600-channel line of sight radio relay system between Ouagadougou-Bobodioulasso and the Ivory Coast frontier, the new Ouagadougou exchange, and the four exchanges in Koudougou, Banfora, Ouahigouya, and Fada-N'Gourma (800 lines).

Furthermore, the interconnection of the Upper Volta, Mali, and Niger systems is continuing. This entails establishing reliable links between the countries of the region in order to proceed with the interconnection of the national networks. The main components are: a high capacity (960 channels) radio relay system with facilities for television transmission linking the exchanges of Mopti, Bandiagara (Mali), Yako, Ouahigouya, Ouagadougou, Kaya, and Dori (Upper Volta); a high capacity (960 channels) radio relay system with television equipment linking the exchanges of Gao, Ansongo (Mali), Ayorou, Tillabery, and Niamey (Niger); four VHF radio links connecting the two exchanges of Dori (Upper Volta) and Tillabery (Niger), which can establish connections to the new exchanges outside of the principal arteries. The conversion of manual operation exchanges, the establishment of new automatic exchanges, the supplying of telephone sets and local nets are also planned. The cost of the project (about 7 billion CFA francs) will be borne by the three governments, the ADB, and the Nigeria Trust Fund.

Congo

The telephone system of the Peoples Republic of the Congo now has 13 automatic exchanges with a little over 4,600 lines. Domestic communications are routed by a 120-channel coaxial cable from POinte-Noire to Brazzaville, and external communications are handled by a radio relay system between Gabon and the Congo from Loubomo, and a cable under the river handles telephone communications with Zaire and radio links with other countries. In addition, a ground station for satellite communications was established in collaboration with France.

Following the visit to Brazzaville of a Zairian delegation of communications experts, Zaire and the Congo decided to develop and make operational the Kinshasa-Brazzaville link which will be a radio relay system.

Zaire will act as prime contractor for the project, which will be done by the SAT [Telecommunications Corporation].

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BRIEFS

EGYPT JOINS EUROPEAN UNION--Cairo, 31 January--Egypt has joined the European Broadcasting Union to benefit from covering world events live for broadcasting in Egyptian newscasts. Audio and video broadcasts are actually being received via satellite and the ground station at Al-Ma'adi. In a statement published in AL-AHRAM today, the vice chairman of the radio and television union, Husayn 'Anan, said that the operation would cost $800,000 annually and that 500,000 pounds have been appropriated for importing modern scientific and electronic equipment for developing newscasts in the most modern system in the world. [Text] [NC311329 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 31 Jan 80 NC]

IRAQI TV COOPERATION WITH CSSR--Baghdad, 29 January--The Iraqi Radio and Television General Organization signed a cooperation protocol here today with the Czechoslovak television organization. The protocol provides for the exchange of movies and special programming on the occasion of national days, the participation in festivals organized by Czechoslovak television and the exchange of expertise in program production. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 29 Jan 80 JN]

ETHIOPIAN-ROMANIAN RADIO ACCORD--At a ceremony in Addis Ababa today, the radio and television services of Ethiopia and Romania signed a cooperation agreement on program exchange and personnel training. [Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 25 Jan 80 LD/EA]

HANOI-USSR SIGN RADIO-TV AGREEMENT--Hanoi VNA January 30--An agreement on radio and television cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union was signed here today by Tran Lam, alternate member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and chairman of the Vietnam Radio and Television Commission, and S.G. Lapin, member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee and chairman of the State Committee of the USSR for Television and Radio. The signing ceremony was witnessed by Hoang Tung, member of the VCP Central Committee and head of the party Commission for Propaganda and Education; Dao Tung, general director of the VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY; a representative of the Foreign Ministry; and a representative of the Soviet Embassy. Also today, S.G. Lapin called on the Vietnam Radio and Television Commission, where he was warmly welcomed in a meeting by Tran Lam and Le Quy, respectively chairman and vice-chairman of the commission, and employees. [Text] [OW302030 Hanoi VNA in English 1821 GMT 30 Jan 80 OW]

JAPANESE LOAN TO KENYA--Japan is to lend Kenya Sh. 263 million to modernise the telephone system. The loan is to be used by the Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation for telephone exchange equipment, transmission lines and other equipment for improving the local network. The loan agreement was signed yesterday in Tokyo by Kenyan Ambassador Kefa Onyoni and Mr. Kaneo Ishikara, president of the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan (OECF). Announcement of the loan was made in Nairobi by Mr. H. Sakai, chief resident representative of OECF. He said it was the fifth and largest loan given by the fund to Kenya. The loan is repayable in 30 years, including a 10-year grace period, with interest at 3 per cent per annum. Mr. Sakai said the total Japanese loan to Kenya through OECF, including this telecommunications project, was now about Sh. 660 million. [Text] [Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 8 Feb 80 p 4]

TAIWAN, PERU NEWS EXCHANGE--Taipei, Feb. 24 (CNA)--The Central News Agency Inc. Sunday began a Spanish newscast to Central and South America. Under an agreement between Central News and the Peruvian Andina Agency Ltd., the two news agencies will exchange news. The two parties agreed initially that the two agencies will send newscast to each other irregularly. C. C. Lin, president of Central News, and Col. Oscar Torres Llosa, director general of the Peruvian National Information System, signed the press exchange agreement on behalf of the two news agencies in Taipei Jan. 26. The news stories sent to Andina by Central News will be available for newspapers and broadcasting stations in Peru. CNA are also negotiating with the Argentine TELAM news agency for a press exchange agreement. Col. Rafael B. de Piano, president of the TELAM news agency, after visiting Taipei in mid January brought back to Argentina with him a draft for the agreement. CNA had begun Spanish newscast to TELAM for the promotion of cooperation. [Text] [OW241429 Taipei CNA in English 1420 GMT 24 Feb 80 OW]

MOZAMBIQUE, HUNGARY RADIO-TV, NEWS AGREEMENT--Mozambique and Hungary signed two important agreements on cooperation in the field of information in Maputo this afternoon. The signatories were our country's director of national information and the Hungarian ambassador to our country. The first protocol agreement provides for cooperation between Radio Mozambique and the Hungarian radio and television, and the second covers cooperation between the Hungarian and Mozambique news agencies. [Excerpt] [LD231552 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 22 Feb 80 LD/EA]

OPEC NEWS SERVICE--OPEC Secregary General Rene Ortis said in Jakarta today that the OPEC News Agency is expected to be operational this year. A meeting among experts of the news agency is yet to be held. The OPEC secretary general is in Jakarta to attend the opening session of the 11-14 February workshop of oil refining operation. In response to questions by newsmen, Ortis said OPEC planned to establish its news agency in cooperation with the national agencies of its member countries. It is aimed at correcting the Western mass media reports which do not reflect the true image of OPEC. For this purpose OPEC had held a meeting with experts from the news agencies of its member countries and followed up with a seminar in Vienna in 1979. [Text] [BK111451 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 11 Feb 80 BK]

JORDAN, DPRK INFORMATION AGREEMENT--Amman, 14 February--A cooperation agreement was signed today at the Information Ministry between the DPRK Radio Central Committee and the Jordan Radio and Television Organization. The agreement which goes into effect today, is for 3 years and is automatically renewable unless one party asks for its cancellation or amendment. Such a request must come 6 months before the expiration date. The agreement was signed by Information Minister Dr Sa'id At-Tall and the DPRK ambassador to Jordan. [Text] [JN141531 Amman JNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 14 Feb 80 JN]

CUBAN, USSR RADIO-TV AGREEMENT--Nivaldo Herrera, president of the Cuban Radio and Television Institute, and Sergey Lapin, chairman of USSR State Committee for Radio and Television, have signed a work agreement for the next 2 years. The agreement calls for exchange of programs, technical cooperation, material assistance and training of specialized personnel. Nivaldo Herrera said the agreement is another expression of the close friendship that exists between Cuba and the Soviet Union. [Text] [FL210017 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Feb 80 FL]

USSR PROTOCOLS WITH GDR, MPR, POLAND--Moscow--Working protocols were signed here today on television and sound broadcasting covering the period 1980-81. They concern cooperation between our country and the Mongolian People's Republic and the Polish People's Republic; an analogous document concerning cooperation in television was signed today with the German Democratic Republic. There will be more exchanges of television and sound material concerning the life and friendship of the peoples of these countries. Special attention is being paid to the commemoration of Lenin's 110th birthday, the 35th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the great patriotic war and the liberation of the German people from fascism, the 60th anniversary of the Mongolian Peoples' revolution and the 35th anniversary of the treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance between the USSR and Poland. The protocols were signed by Lyapin, chairman of the USSR's Gosteleradio; and Committee Chairman Puravjav for Mongolia, Szczopanski for Poland and Adameck for the GDR. [Text] [LD192248 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1830 GMT 19 Feb 80 LD]

CSO: 5500

BRIEFS

JAPAN LINK WITH BHUTAN--Tokyo, 22 Feb--International telephone service will be started next Monday between Japan and Bhutan via India, a Kokusai Denshin Denwa Kaisha (KDD) spokesman said Friday. The charge for a call will be yen 3,045 for the first 3 minutes with an additional fee of yen 1,015 for each minute thereafter. Thus far, communication between Japan and the country in the Himalayan Mountains has been confined to telegram service. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 0956 GMT 22 Feb 80 OW]

SEA INTELSAT SESSION MEETS--Jakarta, 22 Feb (ANTARA)--The 14th session of the Southeast Asia group of the International Telecommunication Satellite Organisation (Intelsat) here was opened by Indonesia's Director General for Post and Telecommunications Suryadi. Held till February 23, the session is being attended by the three Southeast Asian member countries, i.e., Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand. [Excerpt] [SK220723 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0711 GMT 22 Feb 80 BK]

CSO: 5500

BRIEFS

STATION FOR SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS--The government is considering setting up an earth station for satellite communications near Bhopal. This was stated by the general manager of telecommunications in Bhopal 11 February. When completed the station will improve the communications system in the region and cater to the needs of the defense and meteorological department. [Text] [BK161325 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 11 Feb 80 BK]

EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE--A controlled maneuver was successfully carried out on the earth observation satellite Bhaskar in the first week of this month. The satellite was rotated to reorient its spinning action to enable the microwave radiometer to gather data from a large area of the earth's surface during its passing over the ground station. This was disclosed by the Indian Space Research Organization in Bangalore. [Text] [BK190858 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Feb 80 BK]

CSO: 5500

BRIEFS

JIANGSU'S HIGHEST TELEVISION TOWER--Jiangsu's highest television tower has been set up in Yancheng County to relay Beijing television programs for a population of 3 million of Yancheng, Jianhu, Sheyang and Dafeng counties in northern Jiangsu. [OW241243 Nanjing Jiangsu Provincial Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 23 Feb 80 OW]

CSO: 5500

BRIEFS

MORE RADIO-TV STATIONS--The Bureau of Telecommunications has appropriated more than 1.5 million pesos for its expansion and improvement projects in Central Luzon this year. The bureau's regional director says 1 million pesos will be spent for the establishment of radio and television stations in 12 towns in the region. The proposed stations will be established in Santo Domingo, Nueva Ecija, Balibago, Angeles City, Pamapanga and Tarlac. [Manila PNA in English 0830 GMT 14 Jan 80 OW]

CSO: 5500

CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS ON SOVIET AID TO CSSR URANIUM INDUSTRY

[Editorial Report] Three articles appeared in the Czechoslovak press in January containing reference to Soviet assistance to the Czechoslovak uranium industry. An article by Josef Koutnik on pages 48-50 of Prague ZIVOT STRANY of 2 January 1980, entitled "Rationalization of Consumption of Fuels and Energy," contained the following three paragraphs: "Up to 1990, the Czechoslovak nuclear program will consist of the extraction and dressing of uranium ores, the construction of nuclear power plants on Czechoslovak territory and the manufacture of nuclear power station equipment on the basis of the agreed-upon specialization and development of facilities for construction and assembly. In these sectors the scientific and technical tasks will be handled by the appropriate facilities of the Czechoslovak research and development base in coordination with the permanent CEMA commissions. In order to ensure the dependability of nuclear power production, state supervision will be provided for the technical, radiation and nuclear-security aspects of the production and assembly of nuclear power stations.

"The decisive role in the development of the CEMA nuclear energy production system is held by the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union is the leading force in all of the work of research and development; it guarantees the technical projects involving the manufacture of power stations and other nuclear equipment for all of the CEMA countries; it guarantees the production of enriched uranium as well as the disposal of the spent nuclear fuels and their further preparation.

"In Czechoslovakia the decisive role in the development of nuclear energy is held by the mining and engineering industries. Based on the multilateral agreement on specialization in production of nuclear power equipment for power stations with light-water reactors concluded by the CEMA countries in 1979, our industry will be manufacturing a number of key components for nuclear power stations those which are to be built in Czechoslovakia as well as those to be built in other CEMA countries."

On 18 January, Brno ROVNOST published the following announcement on page 1:

"CSSR President Gustav Husak granted the Order of Friendship Award to Yefim [Pavlovich] Slavskiy, USSR minister of medium machine building, for his effective help in developing the Czechoslovak uranium industry."

On 21 January, Prague SVOBODA published an article on page 2 which said that 1980 would have a "twofold importance" for workers in the Czechoslovak uranium industry because it is not only the 35th anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia but also the 35th anniversary of the uranium sector, "...founded on 23 November 1945 by the conclusion of the agreement between the governments of the USSR and the CSSR on prospecting, extraction and delivery of radioactive raw materials." The article said that the advantages stemming from the agreement for Czechoslovakia were such "...that it would be difficult to find their equal in the history of international agreements," and referred to the present role of the Soviet Union in the following manner: "The Soviet help in material and personnel stood at the cradle of the primary development of this sector, and even today such help represents a contribution to the sector's present fulfillment of tasks furthering the interests of the national economy."

CSO: 5500

BRIEFS

NEW TELEPHONE EXCHANGE--A new modern automated telephone exchange of the second generation PK202 type, with a 3,000-line capacity that can be expanded to 20,000 lines, has started operations in Usti nad Labem. The CSSR-produced exchange is servicing the Severni Terasa and Skrivanek housing settlements and the entire northern part of the Usti nad Labem District. [AU140851 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 11 Feb 80 p 5 AU]

CSO: 5500

BRIEFS

UNESCO-DONATED RADIO STATION--The population on the Salvadoran and Guatemalan borders will receive the cultural messages that will be broadcast over a radio station that was recently delivered to the Honduran Government. The [words indistinct] radio station was a gift from UNESCO to the Secretariat of Culture and Tourism, the organization that will be responsible for its operation by personnel properly trained both in the operation of the equipment and in the subjects that will be broadcast. The station has modern equipment that includes a 120-meter antenna. The radio station will broadcast a number of educational programs which were put together some time ago to raise the cultural level of the residents of the region. [Text] [PA221611 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Feb 80 PA]

CSO: 3010

BRIEFS

TELEVISION RELAY STATION--Santiago del Estero, 15 Feb (TELAM)--The provincial governor has inaugurated a television relay station in the city of Anatuya. [PY161737 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1428 GMT 14 Feb 80 PY]

CSO: 5500

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH USSR RADIO-TV ORGANIZATIONS

FL210017 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Feb 80 FL

[Text] Nivaldo Herrera, president of the Cuban radio and television institute, and Sergey Lapin, chairman of USSR state committee for radio and television, have signed a work agreement for the next 2 years. The agreement calls for exchange of programs, technical cooperation, material assistance and training of specialized personnel.

Nivaldo Herrera said the agreement is another expression of the close friendship that exists between Cuba and the Soviet Union.

CSO: 5500

NEWSMEN ISSUE COMMUNIQUE ON MEDIA FREEDOM

PA012357 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpts] Organizations evaluating journalism in Nicaragua have come out urging the respective government officials to keep the nation's information media from plotting against the people. The Union of Journalists of Nicaragua and the Managua Radio Newsmen's Union have issued a communique saying that freedom of expression does not mean the right to broadcast anything by anyone. It also says ideological pluralism does not mean the right to distort and make disturbances to defend whatever any pornographic minds want to broadcast in the information media. The right to inform and be informed is not a birthright.

The communique was stimulated as a result of opinions by some sectors opposed to the Sandinist government and its leaders because of the closing of the newspaper EL PUEBLO on 23 January in Managua. The government junta members and the leaders of the Sandinist front accused this newspaper of being a spokesman of extreme left leaders of the Workers Front and the Peoples Action Movement [MAP] who had begun to promote the sabotage of the people's revolution, by encouraging strikes and stoppages at work centers and slandering the government officials.

The communique says these sectors offend the people, calling them Somozist hordes, only because the people demand respect for their conquests and their leaders and are dedicated to building a new nation in the name of its heroes and martyrs.

The communique adds that the enemies of the revolution claim to be internationalists in order to place the people of Afghanistan on the map. They also make demands on the revolutionary government, which precisely because it does not suffer from the shortsightedness of the crimes committed in Puerto Rico and other places, has not wanted to aline itself with those who have done so much harm to humanity.

CSO: 5500

YAR AGREES TO UNIFY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WITH PDRY

JN311810 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 31 Jan 80 JN

[Text] San'a', 31 January--The two parts of Yemen have agreed to coordinate their cooperation in the fields of postal services, air transport and telecommunications. The two sides issued a statement here today in which they agreed to apply an internal tariff for postal services that are in use in both the YAR and the PDRY as of 15 February. The statement, which was signed by the ministers of communications in both parts of Yemen at the end of their talks over the last 2 days, points out that the two sides are now formulating the basic principles by which to render the postal services between the two parts an internal service and to coordinate the exchange of postal stamps.

The two communications ministers agreed to increase telephone channels from 6 to 12, to operate a telegraph service between the two parts, to install a new microwave network, to complete studies for establishing the Aden-Ta'izz microwave project and to use a unified area code for telephone services in the two parts. The statement asserts that the two sides also agreed in principle to restore air transport between the two parts.

CSO: 5500

KENYA

BRIEFS

INFORMATION SERVICES IMPROVED--The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting will soon embark on a 25-million shilling project to install 200-kilowatt medium transmitter boosters for both the national and general services at Voi and Taveta districts. This was said by an assistant minister in the ministry, Mr Alphonso Okulu, when he opened the 600,000-shilling Hundanyi District information office. Mr Okuku said that it was the ministry's commitment to improve information services throughout the country so that wananchi could be educated and be prevented from becoming victims of foreign propaganda. Mr Okuku said that the Voi project will be constructed between February and July next year. He also said that to achieve the government's objective, the ministry had opened 41 information offices and six subdistrict information offices throughout the republic. [Excerpt] [LD221106 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 21 Feb 80 LD/EA]

CSO: 5500

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATION WITH FRENCH REPORTED

Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 9 Jan 80 pp 1, 3

[Text] Antananarivo. His Excellency Mr Campredon, the ambassador of France to Madagascar, yesterday afternoon paid a courtesy visit to Georges Ruphin, minister of information, ideology, and institutional relations. Their discussion dwelt on the cooperation now in progress or planned in the field of information. There was some discussion of the democratization of the television and telephone system in the south.

The minister stressed that the goal is to establish throughout the entire island a communications system using both wire and television. He said that would help to win the support of the masses for the revolution. There are many regions of Madagascar which should not remain isolated from the rest of the world. The ambassador appreciated this intention, while indicating that France knows what it must do. He also praised the innovations made in television broadcasting.

Television broadcasting can still be further improved, he added. And we in France can help with this, as it suits you in Madagascar.

The minister Georges Ruphin then thanked the French nation, through the ambassador, for its decision to cooperate in improving television programming. He also stressed the interest they have in diversifying sources of information for radio and television in Madagascar, in accordance with Madagascar's non-aligned policy.

His Excellency Mr Campredon also spoke of the French satellite Ariane which was built with the aid of other European nations and of the USSR. The interest of this satellite is beyond any question, but its cost keeps it out of reach of the Malagasy budget at this time.

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CSO: 5500

BRIEFS

MOSCOW'S SATELLITE TELECOMMUNICATIONS--Vasiliy Aleksandrovich Shamshin, first deputy minister of communications, comments on the new television switching center at Ostankino: The new switching center near the Ostankino television tower in Moscow routes central TV transmissions to the Far East and East, Central and West Siberia, Central Asia and the European part of the USSR. It also handles televised reports from Soviet and foreign correspondents. Much of these reach the viewer via the Molniya, Raduga, Ekran and Gorizont satellites with the aid of several space communication centers near Moscow. The Gorizont satellites, which have been operational for only a short period, are already handling a heavy workload. In connection with this series, the Moskva space communications system and its ground stations, which are only slightly more complex than the Ekran system, are going into service. The Ekran series has proved very good for coverage of Siberia from the Arctic to the Mongolian border and from the Ob to the Lena. In addition to television transmissions, the Gorizont handles telephone and telegraph communications between the Far East, Siberia and the European part of the country, and photocopy transmission of twelve central newspapers, including PRAVDA and IZVESTIYA, to Khabarovsk, Irkutsk and Krasnoyarsk. This means that PRAVDA is read about 6 hours earlier in Krasnoyarsk than in Moscow. In preparation for the Olympics some 20 more television program channels will be set up for transmitting to various countries. For this we are putting together a system comprising Soviet and international satellites to bring the events to about 2 billion viewers worldwide. [LD201330 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0030 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD]

SATELLITE NAVIGATION FOR SHIPS--Moscow, February 25, TASS--A program for a broad use of spacecraft for sea communication and shipping has been outlined in the Soviet Union. Wit this aim, a system is created providing for the use of artificial earth satellites of the "Cosmos" type. An all-union "Morsvyazsputnik" (sea communication satellite) organisation has been set up under the USSR Ministry of Merchant Marine. It will be charged with processing data received by means of Soviet and international artificial earth satellites necessary for ensuring communication and navigation on high seas. The satellite system will eliminate breaks of many hours in radio-communication between sea-going ships and ports caused by magnetic storms and other radio interference. The "ship-satellite-ground station" radio bridge will speedily and effectively link subscribers. Already now, big Soviet ships under construction are equipped with satellite communication apparatuses, due to which the control of ship traffic will be more effective in future. The communication system will be used also in navigation. Satellites may become outer space beacons. The USSR is a member of the "Inmarsat" international satellite communication organization, which was set up recently. The convention on its establishment came into force in July last year. The aim of "Inmarsat" is the control of a system, which is to be created on an international basis for ensuring communication between sea-going vessels and coast by means of space satellites. [Text] [LD251429 Moscow TASS in English 1334 GMT 25 Feb 80 LD]

SATELLITE NAVIGATION SYSTEM--Equipment for receiving navigation information via a communications satellite is being installed in ships of the Far East basin. The new equipment has been received by fishing, scientific, and other ships of the Dalryba association, operating in remote areas of the ocean. Ships of the Far East Steamship Company are being prepared for installation of this equipment. [Text] [Vladivostok Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 16 Jan 80 OW]

CSO: 5500

POST, TELEGRAPH AGENCY: MERGE PHONE COMPANIES BY 1982

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 21 Jan 80 p 3

[Article by Sv. Aa. Jensen: "Denmark's Four Telephone Systems Are To Be Brought Together in One Large Company according to a Report Filled With Politically Explosive Material"]

[Text] Denmark's four telephone companies will probably be brought together in one large company in one form or another when the telephone licenses expire on 1 March 1982.

That is the conclusion which has resulted from a big investigation which a group consisting of permament undersecretaries E. Bonnerup Nielsen and Jorgen L. Halck and general director Poul Hansen, of the Post and Telegraph Agency, undertook to carry out.

Four Companies With a Common Management

In a report on the investigation it is admitted, in conclusion, that there is need for better coordination and greater decision-making capability within the telephone and telegraph sector. The group did not find conclusive arguments in favor of continuing to operate the postal sector and the telephone and telegraph sector as a single enterprise, and it is pointed out that there is a need for consolidating and modernizing telephone and telegraph legislation.

If a unified company is going to be set up, the executive group believes that it will be necessary to choose between a government enterprise and a nationalized joint stock company.

At present, the government owns more than half the shares in Kobenhavns Telefon A/S and Jydsk Telefon A/S, while the telephone company on Fyn is owned and operated by the local government and the national telephone system is a purely governmental concern.

The executive group points out that a significant part of the problems involved in switching over which will arise during the transition to a single organization for the entire industry can be avoided by taking the company administrations, as they now exist, as a basis, along with decision-making authority vested in a body which would be responsible for management and would have overall responsibility. The joint stock company structure could be retained for Kobenhavns Telefon A/S and Jydsk Telefon A/S, while Fyn's Telefonselskab, which is run by the local government, would have to be converted from a cooperative society to a joint stock company and the part of the Post and Telegraph Agency concerned with the telephone and telegraph system would have to be separated from the present post and telegraph organization and be given the status of a government-owned joint stock company.

Post and Telegraph Agency Should be Separated

At the same time, the executive group pictures the overall management body as a nationally-owned joint stock company which will operate as a parent company for the four telephone systems. But the consequence of such an arrangement would be that the Post and Telegraph Agency would be separated into two parts and the telegraph and telephone portion would be split up even further, and the executive group realizes that such a reorganization would entail a number of problems.

"There will have to be definite advantages to be gained by such a reorganization," the report concludes, "but it is the opinion of the executive group that that will be the case."

That report, which contains a large quantity of politically explosive material, is now to be looked over by the trade unions to which the employees of the telephone companies belong. Danish people who have telephones never notice, when they use their phones, that there are four telephone companies. The only interest they could have in a unified telephone company or a management organization with overall responsibility would be for such a step to result in lower rates for telephone subscribers, and the report does not have any information about that.

9266
CSO: 5500

PHONE COMPANY OFFICIAL DISCUSSES INNOVATIONS, SERVICES

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 21 Jan 80 p 2

[Article by Sv. Aa. Jensen: "Many Things Available in the New Telephones"]

[Text] During 1980, the deaf-and-dumb will be able to "talk to each other" on the telephone. Telephone subscribers in Copenhagen will be able to buy an extra piece of telephone apparatus which not only receives messages when nobody is home but will also be able to pass those messages on to the owner of the telephone by means of a special code, even if the individual is living somewhere else.

In the capital city area we are to have telephones with built-in loudspeakers, so that everybody in the room can join in the conversation. Some clever pieces of special apparatus to replace the old systems have been prepared especially for business use. They can be connected to the individual telephones, and they undoubtedly will save a lot of time for the employees. Specifically, people will be able to see, by means of these pieces of apparatus for individuals, which local telephones are busy and which are not being used.

If a conversation is going on, a red button the size of a thumb tack will light up, and one will also be able to see whether the company's central lines are occupied or not.

Illuminated Letters by Telephone

Telephones with built-in TV screens so that one can see the person one is talking to are not on the market yet. "But developments in electronics technology are moving so fast that even I have trouble keeping up," graduate in economics Helge Mansa, a KTAS (Kobenhavns Telefon A/S) department head, says.

"How does the new piece of telephone apparatus work by means of which the hard of hearing will be able to receive telephone messages?" he was asked.

"It is a piece of apparatus with a sort of illuminated newspaper on top of it which can be connected with the telephone, and it is to be supplied with a little plastic stencil. It shows what buttons on the telephone one should press to form letters on the receiving apparatus at the other end of the line. We call it a writing telephone. This telephone owes its existence to cooperation with the Society for the Deaf and the government. The price of a writing telephone will be 3,000 or 4,000 kroner, but many handicapped people will probably be able to get a government subsidy enabling them to obtain such a device. It was developed by a KTAS engineer. It is a less expensive solution than attempts which were made to "converse" with typewriters over the telephone network.

"A telephone with a device for listening in is nothing new. It is standard equipment with the new Jutlandish electronic telephone, which many people in Copenhagen would rather have than the lighter Copenhagen push-button telephone," he was told.

"Yes, and there have been complaints that our push-button telephone is not as good as the Jutlandish one, which is manufactured by Kirks Telefonfabrikker in Horsens. But in the first place our subscribers will be able to get the Jutlandish version from us here, beginning in the fall, and, in the second place, the reason why the Copenhagen push-button telephone was not equipped with a built-in loudspeaker right from the beginning was the very simple fact that we did not think everybody would have any use for that special piece of technical equipment. For that reason we decided to let those who wanted extra equipment pay for it. That is the principle we do business on, and we believe that it is a more wholesome policy than letting all customers pay. "Take the new push-button telephone--the F 78--now. Subscribers who want to get that telephone instead of the old dial phone had to pay 150 kroner extra per phone. We disposed of 200,000 push-button telephones, and that brought in 30 million kroner. That corresponds to half of a normal rate increase--an increase we did not have to make because of that extra process we went through of selling the push-button phones.

"That business principle is only applicable to future telephones, of course, because the extra charge will be eliminated when push-button telephones become obligatory."

A Waiting List of 20,000

"How big is the waiting list of people who want to buy push-button telephones?" Mr Mansa was asked.

"It is all the way down to 20,000 now," he replied, "and it is always the pearl-gray model that is most in demand, followed by the number model. The price for an extension dial telephone at the moment is 75 kroner, for a phone with a typewriter-type keyboard it is 225 kroner and for a typewriter-type keyboard phone with a device for listening in--the new F 80--it is 375 kroner."

"Is there anything else that is new?" he was asked.

"We have developed the little, so-called number transmitter further. It is a little extension phone in which one can encode the numbers one calls the most frequently and which makes it possible to get into direct contact with any one of the owners of 20 different numbers recorded on the number transmitter simply by pressing one of its 20 buttons. Thus one is not obliged to dial long numbers. The number transmitter can be attached to the push-button telephone, and it can work by means of a through plug in the contact.

"Having a telephone in the 1980's will be something like having a construction kit. One will be able to add special, new electronic developments to his ordinary telephone as they are needed. By the way, we can boast that, out of all the countries in the world, Denmark is the one which has advanced the farthest in modern telephone technology," said Mr Mansa.

9266
CSO: 5500

AGENCIES' DISPUTE IMPEDES NEW DATA TRANSFER NETWORK

Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 5 Jan 80 p 5

[Text] The fees for the new data transmission network to be used for computer connections were established last Friday. The Central Board of Post and Telegraphy and the Association of Telephone Companies, which represents private phone companies, have been waging a political power struggle over these fees.

The bill on the fees remained in the government for several weeks because it was first the RKP's [Swedish People's Party] ministers and then Ministers of Agriculture Taisto Tahkamaa (Center Party) who demanded that the bill be tabled. The telephone companies expected that the tabling would continue even longer and that the Post Office would be made to negotiate on the fees with the phone companies. However, the bill was approved by the government and it was put into effect after being presented to the president.

The Association of Telephone Companies was annoyed by the fact that the fees of the data transmission network were established without negotiating with the phone companies. Immediately, on Friday, the association made a statement according to which the fees established by a statute would only be applicable to the data transmission services of the Central Board of Post and Telegraphy. According to the association, the fees of the phone companies could not be established in this manner, by a statute.

The dispute between the Post Office and the telephone companies is part of a long lasting controversy. Private phone companies believe that the Post Office and the Transportation Ministry with communist leadership are nationalizing telephone and other telecommunication services at a rapid pace. To place data transmission under the jurisdiction of the Post Office is a step towards the nationalization of the telecommunication services.

Even before, the Post Office and the phone companies have been at odds with each other about picture transmission permits. Even the attorney general has been unable to solve that controversy. At the present time, a bill on new communication methods is in the making.

The Post Office and the Association of Telephone Companies reached an agreement on establishing a general data transmission network. The network will be used by companies that own computers, by banks as well as by other institutions. Data transmission means the transmission of information from one computer to another or from a computer terminal to a computer that is remotely located, via phone lines.

The new network will be established on the existing phone lines in the following way: the Central Board of Post and Telegraphy will be responsible for designing the network and for building the equipment and the transmission lines; the telephone companies will connect the individual users into the network and make an agreement with them on its use.

In the beginning, the new network will have only one center in Helsinki. The entire network's ATK [translation unknown] traffic will be transmitted on it. Testing the network should start some time in the spring and the goal is to get the network ready for commercial use towards the end of this spring. The present connections between computers will be used when necessary, even after the establishment of the new network. The transmission of ATK information is now being used by about 9,500 users.

Government Will Collect Payments

The fees for the use of the new data transmission network will be collected by the government which will then reimburse the telephone companies with their share. The users of the network will have to pay a start-up fee, an annual fee as well as traffic fees, all of which have been based on the transmission speed of the information. The start-up fee ranges from 2,1-0 to 4,100 markka, the annual fee from 290 to 500 markka and the traffic fee from five penni to 1.60 markka per minute. The fees will go into effect at the beginning of February.

In practice, the use of the new data transmission network will be less expensive than now to some users and more expensive to others. It has been estimated that the cost of use will decrease for those who need the transmission network either very little or very much.

The Association of Telephone Companies feels that the phone companies themselves should establish the fees for their services and be able to keep the money although, in practice, the fees would be collected by the government. The association has proposed that different fees would be imposed for local and long-distance use of the network. In this manner, the phone companies' share would be ratified by the statute. Now establishing their share is dependent on separate negotiations. The Association of Telephone Companies made a statement to the attorney general that it was not legal to impose the data transmission fees as it was stated in the statute.

The Transportation Ministry remarked that the new data transmission network was a general, national telecommunications network whose fees should be established all over the country in a uniform manner just as the fees of long-distance phone calls and telex-services have been established. "This is a legal administrative task that belongs under the government's jurisdiction," the ministry asserted.

Building contractors of phone districts also interfered in the dispute between the Central Board of Post and Telegraphy and telephone companies by giving a statement. In their view, unhealthy competition would lead to the wasting of resources.

The building contractors are in favor of separating the management of telecommunications services from the Post Office, which is being currently studied by a task force of the Transportation Ministry. The contractors also find the current division into telephone districts unsatisfactory. Moreover, they remind us of the fact that the agreements between the Post Office and private phone companies pertaining to the data transmission network have not been made yet.

9153
CSO: 5500

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY REPORT URGES MORE HIGHWAY PHONES

Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 9 Jan 80 p 30

[Text] A task force proposed the installation of a network of approximately 1,000 highway phones.

Approximately 1,000 highway phones should be installed on the most heavily traveled roads. The phones would help save a few lives every year and transporting the injured to hospitals would be faster.

Highway phones have been tested in several places in Finland for the last 5 years. Based on the good results, the report on the test urged that the Transportation Ministry initiate the installation of a network of highway phones.

According to the task force, the first stage should primarily focus on providing the highways of southern Finland, over a stretch of 2,000 km, with 400 phones. Later, an additional 600 phones should be installed over 3,000 km of highways.

The task force proposed that the installation of the phones should start immediately. However, that will not be possible due to a lack of funds. Four million markka would be needed during the first stage and the total amount would be ten million markka. A highway phone costs 10,000 markka.

Half of the cost of the 5-year experiment was paid by TVH [Central Board of Highways and Waterways] and the other half by the Central Board of Post and Telegraphy. "Neither institution can afford to install a complete network. The funds must come from elsewhere," said Martti Ojajarvi, a college-educated engineer from TVH.

The experiment included 122 phones in the vicinity of Helsinki, Kouvola, Lappeenranta, Imatra, Jamsa, Rovaniemi and Kuusamo.

Each phone had been used 4 to 6 times a year. Twenty-five percent of the calls dealt with traffic accidents and almost a half with disabled cars. Other reasons for calls were, for example, fires and warning other drivers about hazards on the roads.

At the beginning of the experiment, there were some prank calls but they disappeared almost entirely towards the end.

In comparison to foreign experiments, the Finns used the phones as frequently in accident cases as they were used abroad but otherwise the phones were used considerably less in Finland.

The usefulness of the phones in accident cases was evaluated during the experiment. It was concluded from the results that 3-5 lives could be saved a year by installing 1,000 phones. The injuries of many people could be alleviated by getting them help faster than before.

It was proposed that highway phones be installed at intervals of 3-7 km on one-lane roads and at intervals of 2 km on highways. They should be as visible as possible in accident-prone places where it is difficult to call for help in any other way.

The phones recommended for use are loudspeaker phones, also used in the experiment, from which a connection can be made to an emergency operator by turning a lever. In the view of the task force, the phone network could be made up of such phone systems, which are 80-90 percent domestic.

9153
CSO: 5500

BRIEFS

FIRST MOBILE PHONE EXCHANGE--The first mobile phone exchange will be built in Lahti as early as at the end of 1981. The network will then be gradually expanded to cover the entire country. The Managing director of the Central Board of Post and Telegraphy, Pekka Tarjanne, talked about the outlook of telephone traffic in the 1980's at a celebration of its automation in the phone district of Mikkeli. Only 3,000 users of the government's phones can now hear the voice of the operator Sandra during their regular calls. Managing Director Pekka Tarjanne promised automation even to these phone users in Korppoo and Lapland by April Fool's Day. After that, the Central Board of Post and Telegraphy will really embark into the 1980's, which means a general transfer of the phone traffic to a digital era. "It is estimated that in the coming years, the number of phone company employees will remain almost unchanged. The next few years will be the hardest in the respect but, for example, the maintenance work, left aside in the rush of the automation, will employ especially mechanics," said Tarjanne. In the phone district of Mikkeli, phone exchange equipment was installed for 47,000 phone numbers between 1974 and 1979. Of these, domestic exchange equipment was used for 35,000 numbers. The district's first digital exchange will be installed in Kangasniemi as early as 1982. [Text] [Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 9 Jan 80 p 8] 9153

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CNET TO BE PILOT TELECOMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH CENTER

Paris LE MONDE in French 16 Jan 80 p 17

[Article by Jean-Francois Augereau: "The CNET Is Officially Reported to Become the Pilot Center for Telecommunications Research"]

[Text] The council of ministers is to meet on 16 January and reach some decisions concerning the National Center for Telecommunications Studies (CNET). In preparing these decisions, an "audit commission" headed by the director of the D'Orsay Optical Institute, Mr Andre Marechal, was charged with evaluating the CNET's research activities, pointing out the weak points of its structure, judging the quality of its public relations, and reviewing the problems of the sub-management level personnel, whose "career profile is distinctly more advantageous in CNET if they come from the corps of telecommunications engineers." However, it may be regrettable that a larger place was not given to the industry and its organization to the extent that it influences basic research.

The report written by the commission constitutes only a working document for the people who are to decide on the changes to be made in the CNET. As far as anyone knows, these decisions will not go as far as what has been proposed. A technological watchdog agency is supposed to be created within the general management of Telecommunications, which has the CNET under its authority.

On the other hand, a scientific consultative committee is supposed to be created within the CNET to help formulate research policy. Finally, the two missions of the CNET--research and development, and technical assistance and expertise--should be made more "distinct," and the five CNET centers should benefit from increased autonomy.

Telecommunications activity is rapidly increasing throughout the world. Although this growth varies from country to country, no economic activity can take place without using the telephone, telex, remote computers and their associated services. CNET Director Maurice Bernard recently declared, "Gaining control over the development of this sector is to lead change rather than being led by it, and to build our future rather than being shaped by it."

Won't an organization like the CNET play a part in this? After all, it had 3,800 employees and a Fr 566 million budget in 1979. Is it a tool adapted the public authorities' ambitions in telecommunications? Mr Andre Marechal, director of the D'Orsay Optical Institute, has attempted, at the request of the state secretary for the Postal and Telecommunications Service, Mr Norbert Segard, and the state secretary for research, Mr Pierre Aigrain, to answer these questions. The result has been a report of about 30 pages that has served as a working document for the people involved in reforming the organization.

Not everything is perfect. "The CNET, with as many resources as it has, should be able to hold its own with the best research centers." The apparent good will in the way the conclusions are worded covers a criticism of the Center that is occasionally severe: "It seems that the CNET's research production is relatively insufficient considering the materiel at its disposal and the quality of its employees," states the report of the commission led by Mr Marechal. "The results are quite inconsistent," he adds. Some "remarkable achievements"--time switching, for example--next to "obvious weaknesses in certain areas."

The authors of the report mention that in many areas the basic knowledge is lacking concerning the techniques being studied, the abandonment of all programs on highly-integrative silicium components in the 1960's, the fact that the CNET, which has never been in the forefront in the field of optics, has contributed very little to progress in this discipline, and the obvious insufficiency of socio-economic studies, particularly for the new services.

For the commission, this situation is due in particular to the multiplicity of the missions with which the CNET is charged--research and development, for one thing, expertise and technical assistance, on the other, but it is also due to the poor structure and functioning of the CNET, to the lack of high-level scientific authorities in research, and, finally, to a tendency to confuse administrative, scientific, and technical roles.

To that can be added the fact that the CNET is a "closed company," whereas "the increasing importance of its work necessarily means it must be open." Witness the fact that "dialogue with the CNET is generally considered insufficient by industrialists, members of the university, and large foreign research organizations and laboratories." A "formal barrier" has arisen between the CNET and industry, both of whom are responsible for it. The CNET is because it only acts as a consultant to industry and is too tardy in communicating its ideas or the status of its research to industry. Industry is responsible because it "displays a kind of inertia and is too often unwilling to take any risks." In addition, relations between the CNET and the French and foreign scientific communities are insufficient.

New Structures?

While the authors of the report believe that the CNET's existence is justified by the necessity for France to have a large study and research center devoted to telecommunications, they also wonder if it shouldn't be the "pilot center for research in telecommunications for all of France," rather than the center for administrative studies in telecommunications. Such an option is compatible with the CNET's missions and would make it possible to strengthen the interministerial nature of this organization, which is "provided for on paper but actually rather restricted." It appears that large users of telecommunications, such as the military, rarely use it, even as a consultant.

In order to enable the CNET's two mission to coexist--internal research and development, on the one hand, and expertise and technical assistance on the other--the commission advocates putting the Center directly under the authority of the General Delegation for Telecommunications (DGT), which will let it have relative autonomy in research and development, and the commission also advocates creating two new scientific agencies.

The first would be a scientific board charged with "stimulating and coordinating research in progress, promoting foreign relations in the scientific field, and finding new axes of research while overseeing their integration into general programs."

The second new scientific agency would take the form of a scientific and technical council--including non-agency members--who would consult committees and supply information on the quality of the research and development teams and on program proposals.

The report advises that this change in structure would have to be accompanied by broad exchanges with the regions and the scientific community, as well as with industry. The commission notes that "it would do no good to strengthen the research mission unless it is accompanied by a new climate in the relations" between the two partners. To this end it may be necessary to "facilitate the recruitment of researchers with an industrial background" and help "create mixed teams, either by welcoming into the CNET people from the consumer sector or by favoring the release of CNET engineers so that they can follow up on the development and production of a project."

The implementation of such reforms, if they are realized, cannot take place, the commission notes, unless a "scientific hierarchy replaces the hierarchy of administrative power." The number of high-level permanent researchers is presently insufficient in this organization, and, in comparison to large French and foreign laboratories, there is too great a disproportion between the number of engineers and the general staff of the Center (less than 25 percent). Thus, the commission states, the CNET's effectiveness will depend in large measure on its "ability to bring together a leadership team."

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CSO: 5500

BRIEFS

TV RELAY STATION--The TV relay station set up near the village of Payanca to broadcast to Sinop's Boyabat District and its surroundings began its transmissions on a channel in band 3. TRT technical officials have said that TV set owners in the area must turn their antennae toward Payanca. [Text] [Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1000 GMT 1 Feb 80 TA]

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